

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-13 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2465

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 6222

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TH
SUBJ: FY74 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR THAILAND

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT CAMBODIA WAR REQUIREMENTS MAY NECESSITATE CUTS IN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) LEVELS FOR SEVERAL COUNTRIES, POSSIBLY INCLUDING A \$9 TO 10 MILLION CUT IN THAILAND MAP (FROM THE PROPOSED \$38.5 MILLION).

2. WHILE WE APPRECIATE THE PREDICAMENT THAT WASHINGTON MILITARY ASSISTANCE PLANNERS FACE, WE MUST EMPHASIZE THAT CUTS IN THE THAILAND MAP NOW COULD HAVE SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECTS ON US BASE RIGHTS AND ON OTHER FACILITIES IN THAILAND. ALTHOUGH THE US DOES NOT HAVE AN EXPLICIT QUID PRO QUO ARRANGEMENT WITH RTG IN WHICH BASES ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO US FORCES IN RETURN FOR SPECIFIED LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE, THE THAI HAVE COME TO LOOK UPON US AID IN THAT LIGHT. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE THE PROGRAM-LEVEL "FLOOR" BELOW WHICH WE CANNOT CUT OUR AID AND STILL MAINTAIN OUR BASE AND OTHER INTERESTS. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT WITH THE PRESENT AND CONTEMPLATED LEVELS OF US FORCES IN THAILAND AND WITH THE US FORCE PRESENCE BECOMING A THAI POLITICAL ISSUE, WE WOULD BE PUSHING OUR LUCK MUCH TOO FAR IF REQUIRED TO REDUCE OUR ASSISTANCE TO THE \$28.5 - 29.5 MILLION LEVEL. HOPE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO AVOID CUTS IN THAILAND MAP

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WHICH WOULD RISK SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECT ON IMPORTANT US INTERESTS

HERE, INCLUDING OF COURSE THE MAJOR SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIAN
OPERATIONS MOUNTED OUT OF THAILAND.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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